Supplement Ypsilanti Commercial.

YPSILANTI PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Report of the Superintendent for the Year 1899-1900.

To the Board of Education:

I submit herewith my annual report of the schools under my charge. In addition to some statistical items, I have made selection of such matter as may have the largest present interest to our citizens.

ENROLLMENT, ETC.

The number of pupils enrolled in the schools last year, all transfers excluded, was 1,132. These were distributed by departments as follows:

In the High School	254
Grammar Grades	343
Primary Grades	535

The enrollment by buildings and grades below the High School, including transfers, was as follows:

Central Building.

Grammar Grades	275
Primary Grades	219
Total	494

Fourth Ward Building.

Grammar Grades	55
Primary Grades	117
Total	172

Fifth Ward Building.

Grammar Grades	19
Primary Grades	152
Total	171

First Ward Building.

Primary Grades	66

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATIONS.

The Grammar Grades in the Central Building contained 30 seventh grade and 23 eighth grade children from the east side of the river.

The Grammar Grades in the Fourth Ward Building contained 23 sixth grade children from the Fifth Ward.

The school census of 1899 gave 954 children of school age in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Wards, and 587 in the 4th and 5th Wards.

The attendance in the Primary Grades of the city schools on the west side was 285; on the east side 269. This nearly equal attendance of primary children from the two sections is explained by the location of the Training School.

Under the present conditions the limit of our school accommodations has been reached. At different times during the year every seat in the primary grades was occupied; and in the grammar grades there were only about a dozen vacant seats, and these in the two eighth grades.

The subject of school accommodations continually forces itself upon us. An increase of fifty in the attendance below the High School would seriously clog the schools, and could hardly be taken care of without renting rooms. We are so situated that this increase is possible at any time, without any increase in the population of the city; and we are in no condition to enforce the truant law. A wise foresight should keep our accommodations in advance of our needs, rather than behind them.

In taking any measures for new buildings a large view should be taken of our conditions. Ypsilanti is the seat of a Teachers' College. Hundreds of young men and women gather here every year to make a study of teaching and prepare to become teachers. Our buildings, grounds, and equipment, as well as our teaching corps, should all be such as to be worthy examples.

TEACHERS.

The following teachers have been employed during the past year:

High School.

Superintendent—Economics and Reviews—Austin George.

Principal—Latin and Greek—Wm. B. Arbaugh.

Preceptress—French, German, and Literature—Emilie A. Flintermann.

Sciences—DeForrest Ross.

Mathematics—Orpha E. Worden.

English—Hattie Culver.

History and Latin—Emilie Comstock.

Science and Mathematics—Ella M. Spencer.

Music—Harper C. Maybee.

Drawing—Margaret E. Gilbert.

Librarian—Mildred S. Smith.

Grades, Central Building.

Eighth—Emma L. Ray.

Eighth—Belle Kennedy.

Seventh—Maude Sprague, seven months, Cecile Powers, three months.

Seventh—Gertrude Defendorf.

Sixth—Anna L. Doane, one month; M. Maude Manly, nine months.

Fifth—Bertha Marshall, eight months; Carrie E. Read, two months.

Fourth—Estella Baker, five months; Edna Kopp, five months.

Third—Mina E. Bordine.

Second—Mary E. Thompson.

First—Mary B. Kopp.

Fourth Ward Building.

Sixth—Ella L. Pierce.

Fourth and Fifth—Marian Pierce French.

Second and Third—Beulah A. Moore.

First—Alice E. Reinl.

Fifth Ward Building.

Fifth—Emma Holbrook.

Third and Fourth—Anna McDougall.

Second—Lutie M. Densmore.

First—Edith C. Worts.

First Ward Building.

First, Second, Third and Fourth—Anna Chalmers.

OUR HIGH SCHOOL.

For the information of our citizens—both those having children in school and those who have not, and also those contemplating sending students here—I will present some of the salient features of this important department of our school system. Requests are often made for information regarding these matters, and these statements may possibly answer many inquiries.

The Ypsilanti High School has now completed fifty-one years. During that long period it has stood in this community and before the state as a worthy exponent of academic education. Not only the young men and women of Ypsilanti and vicinity, but students from other parts of the state and from other states, have here received the scholastic training needed for the duties of intelligent citizenship, or have prepared for college within its walls.

ENROLLMENT.

The School has never been more prosperous than at the present time. The enrollment for the past year was as follows:

Freshmen	72
Sophomores	81
Juniors	54
Seniors	45
Post Graduates	2
Total	254
Young men	100
Young women	154
Non-resident students	52
Number of states represented	4
Number of Michigan counties represented	13

GRADUATES.

The success of a school is shown not more by the number of students who attend than by the number who remain in attendance to the completion of one of the prescribed courses of study. The latter indicates the influence of the school over its pupils.

The number graduating this year was	44
Young men	21
Young women	23
Average age	19+
Non-residents	11

The first class graduated in 1852 and was composed of three members. The number of graduates, including this year's class, is 493, making an average of ten each year. During the four years that I have been connected with the School there have been graduated 120, nearly one-fourth of the entire number.

The increase of numbers of the graduating classes is noteworthy; it has more than kept pace with the increase of attendance, and is of gratifying interest to the community and a cause of congratulation to the management. These large classes are not the result of short or cheap courses, or the lowering of the scholarship or tone of the School. Indeed, since the early years of the School, there has been a gradual but decided increase in the requirements for admission to the University and other Colleges. These requirements have, in the main, constituted the courses of study of our leading High Schools. In Latin, 1,500 lines of Ovid have been added, and in Greek two books of Homer's Iliad; while in Mathematics, Sciences and Literature, the increase has been marked. In all these lines our High School has kept fully abreast of the requirements, in both the amount and quality of work, and our graduates are admitted on their diplomas to the Colleges and the University of Michigan. During the past year President Thwing invited our High School to establish diploma relations with the Western Reserve University of Ohio, and Olivet College has offered a scholarship to the member of our graduating class ranking first or second in scholarship.

The regular work in all courses is four studies a term for four years. A strong student may occasionally take more than the regular work, but the practice is not encouraged. On the other hand, it is sometimes found desirable for purposes of health or sound scholarship that students take but three studies, and thus occupy more than four years in completing their course. No considerations other than health and sound scholarship are allowed to govern the amount of a pupil's work, and under no circumstances is a student graduated until all the studies of his course are satisfactorily completed.

IMMEDIATE OCCUPATION OF OUR GRADUATES.

During the year, I took occasion to look up the record of our graduates after leaving the High School. Inquiries were made concerning all the members of the five classes immediately preceding the present class, that is, from 1895 to 1899, inclusive. In these years there were graduated 41 young men and 63 young women, total 104, and they engaged in occupations as follows:

Entered the Normal College	51
Entered the University	14
Entered West Point	1
Studied Pharmacy	2
School for Training Nurses	1
Post-graduate work in High School	1
Teaching at once	5
Business College	5
Business at once	13
Printing	1
Farming	1
Life at Home	3
Married soon after graduation	5
Died soon after graduation	1
Total	104

Of those who entered the Normal College, 27 have now graduated; 13 of these have already held responsible positions as teachers—3 in high schools, and several more have secured positions for next year. What is especially worthy of note is the

fact that 80 out of these 104 graduates entered upon advanced study.

THE LIBRARY.

In my report of last year I said:

One of the most valuable adjuncts of a school is the Library. This should be so organized and equipped as to be a constant source of information, inspiration and power to pupils and teachers alike. It should be so managed as to develop in pupils a reading habit, which will remain with them after they leave the school and be a means of growth and culture, whatever their walk in life may be, or in whatever occupations they may engage. Intellectual progress after school days are over, depends largely upon reading. Persons who are readers of good books, advance; while those who are not, remain stationary or retrograde. This explains why some of the brightest pupils fail in subsequent culture, and why some of the slow pupils accomplish so much. The importance of acquiring the reading habit may thus be seen, and the necessity for the school library is obvious.

I recommended the appointment of a Librarian, who should keep the Library and Reading Room open for full time during all school days, advise and assist students in consulting books, and prepare a subject catalog of all books in the Library. This appointment was duly made, and the Library is now successfully administered on the plan outlined. Students who draw books are furnished with topic slips and a circular of instructions for writing subject cards for the catalog cases. The Librarian will hereafter give regular instruction in the care of books, the method of consulting the Library, and the use of reference books.

Over 4,000 volumes are now in the Library, and the reading tables are supplied with some of the leading magazines and other periodical literature. The large increase in the Library—over 2,400 volumes in four years—has come by purchase and donation. Some of the most liberal private donors have been Mr. Erastus Samson, Mrs. J. B. Kinne and Miss Emily Guiwits. Any of our citizens who have suitable books that they would like to contribute to our Library and thus multiply the usefulness of the volumes, are requested to confer or communicate with the Superintendent.

HIGH SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS.

During the last five years our students have maintained a semi-monthly periodical called High School Chat, and for the last three years have published an illustrated annual—Ypsi Dixit, a bound volume, issued at the close of the school year. These productions have been creditable and beneficial to the students and advantageous to the School as well. They should receive the continued encouragement of the School authorities and the liberal support of our citizens.

SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS.

There are connected with the School several societies. The Sigma Delta and Estabrook are composed of young men, and the Beta Nu of young women. These are literary and social in their aims, and are the successors of the old lyceums and debating clubs. These societies—or fraternities and sorority, as they are sometimes styled—have occasionally been a cause of anxiety to some of the parents and guardians of the students belonging,—to some extent from the social features, but mainly on account of the initiation exercises. It is proper that I should publicly state for the guidance of the societies and the information of parents and others interested, the action of the Board of Education relative to these organizations. Their rulings are in brief as follows:

1. No societies, fraternities, or organizations shall be allowed in the School whose meetings are not at all times open to the Superintendent, High School teachers, and members of the Board of Education.

2. The Superintendent may assign such societies rooms for their meetings.

3. Evening meetings are held on Fridays between the hours of 7 and 10.

4. All initiation exercises must take place in the regular meeting rooms and be confined to the hours named, and the program of such exercises must previously be submitted to the Superintendent.

I wish to state that in my opinion such societies properly regulated and conducted, are a distinct advantage to their membership and a benefit to the School. They are, as far as is consistent with the general welfare, to be encouraged and aided into their highest usefulness. As a rule, they need guidance, not suppression.

For the last few years there have been Athletic and Oratorical Associations. Their names sufficiently indicate their purpose. The Athletic Association has been a vigorous society and its various teams have given a good account of themselves on the diamond field, the track, and the gridiron. When this Association solicits aid and patronage, I suggest that it receive a liberal response. Our citizens should bear in mind that the High School is their school, and that it has no funds provided for athletics.

There are four other organizations, made up of the students in the different years of the school course. During the year these four Classes regularly elect officers, adopt mottoes, colors, yells, etc., and develop a commendable class spirit and enthusiasm.

HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS.

Several events of more than ordinary interest to the School and the community, may now be considered as regularly established in the High School year. I will speak of them in the order of their recurrence.

JUNIOR EXHIBITION.

This event is scheduled for about March 1, instead of at the close of the first semester as formerly. This date is a full month beyond the mid-year examinations, and relieves the students and teachers of the double strain, incident to the old arrangement; moreover, the examination has made it clear who are entitled to rank as eligible Juniors. The size of the Junior class now makes it desirable that two evenings be taken for this exhibition.

CHOIR CONCERT.

For the last three years concerts have been given by the High School Choir, near the time of the spring vacation. In 1899, Cowen's Rose Maiden was successfully presented, and in 1900, Gaul's Holy City. These entertainments have received high commendation by able critics.

BACCALAUREATE SERMON.

The exercises of Commencement week were this year marked by an innovation. By vote of the Board the Baccalaureate was adopted as a regular feature. Complying with the invitation to inaugurate the custom, an eloquent and scholarly sermon was preached by Rev. Wm. Gardam, at St. Luke's church, Sunday evening, June 10, on the general theme of earnest and honest endeavor, based on Philippians III, 13, —"This one thing I do."

CLASS DAY.

The Senior Class Day exercises are held the evening before Commencement. They consist of a salutatory address, essay, oration, class history, poem, prophecy, class song, class gifts, etc. The participants are elected by the class and are at liberty to be grave or gay as the spirit moves; eloquence and argument, and jokes and grinds, are received with equal favor by class and audience.

COMMENCEMENT.

This crowning event in the career of the student, occurs on the last Friday evening of the school year. The exercises consist of from eight to ten orations by members of the class appointed by the Faculty, music by the High School Choir, and the presentation of Diplomas by the Superintendent.

ALUMNI MEETING.

At the conclusion of the Commencement program the Alumni hold their annual reunion and banquet. As the number of the Alumni increases, these gatherings will naturally assume larger proportions. Last year, graduates through five decades of the School's history were present and responded to toasts, and this year four decades were represented by the speakers.

The officers this year were as follows:

President—Warren H. Smith, Class '84.

Secretary—Ella M. Spencer, '91.

Program Committee—Geo. R. Gunn, '96; Nellie Jarvis Gaudy, '83; Roy E. Spencer, '97.

Banquet Committee—Anna Judd Hull, '83; Will J. Hyzer, '81; Clara Nichols Van Fossen, '81.

Nominating Committee—Charles E. King, '69; Ella M. Spencer, '91; Will J. Hyzer, '81.

Grace was said at the banquet by Rev. Charles T. Allen, '64. After the viands were disposed of, President Smith introduced the toastmaster, Lieut.-Col. J. P. Kirk, '86. The following toasts were responded to:

First Lessons—Lutie M. Densmore, '83.

From High School to University—Carl H. Young, '97.

A Penny for Your Thoughts—Lydia A. Spencer, '61.

Tops—Harold Follett Spencer, '00.

High School Societies—John F. McCann, '96.

Progress in Truth—Rev. J. H. Crooker, D.D., '70.

Furniture Polish—Atwood R. McAndrew, '99.

My Sisters—Ada M. Paine, '98.

Repeaters—Frank Joslyn, '61.

Chairman King, '69, of the nominating committee, named John F. McCann, '96, for President, next year; Atwood R. McAndrew, '99, Vice-Pres.; and Mrs. Clara Nichols Van Fossen, '81, for Secretary; the President to appoint the new committees. The report was unanimously adopted.

The Alumni meeting is becoming an event of great importance in the life of School. Nothing can do more to sustain and build up an educational institution than the active interest of its Alumni. Such interest inspires and stimulates the undergraduate to complete the course of study, and often it creates a new bond of sympathy and companionship between parent and child, as was happily illustrated in the case of several of the present graduating class.

CONCLUSION.

The interests of our city are so intimately bound up with the success of our schools, that I am sure I hazard nothing in asking the intelligent and hearty support of all our citizens in every proper effort put forth to maintain the reputation of our schools and to advance their standing. It will not do to rest on past achievements, however glorious. The world moves, and institutions, like individuals, must advance or retrograde. There is no standing still in educational matters more than in others. It is not necessary to progress that there should be great noise; but it is desirable that there should be movement, and life, and enthusiasm.

Respectfully submitted,

AUSTIN GEORGE,
Superintendent.

Ypsilanti, Mich., August 20, 1900.